

Venezuela denies Chavez
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meetings pg 5

Dr. Edward Cheung reports everything is A-Ok and ready for launch for STS-135



STS - 135 Crew, Pilot Doug Hurley, Sandy Magnus, Dr. Cheung Commander Chris Ferguson and Rex Walheim.
See coverage on page 8

The weekly Bon Bini Festival is tomorrow night

ORANJESTAD -- The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place tomorrow night at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This week the festival will feature the traditional Aruba caha di orgel by Crystal, folkloric music by Arco Iris, dance performance by Youth in Action, trio performance by The Jacobs Family, poem declaimed by Angelle Stamper, soloist Quincy Hasham and steelpan band The New Generation.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale.

Arubus has regular buses from all hotels areas to Oranjestad Central Terminal,



which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is \$2.30. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$3, =

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International Day against Drugs Abuse observed worldwide



KARACHI, Pakistan -- Pakistani soldiers destroy seized bottles of liquor during a ceremony to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, in Karachi yesterday. Pakistan has more than four million drug addicts in a population of 176 million, according to figures compiled by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), which is responsible for investigating and prosecuting drug offences. Opium poppy is grown on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, a region infamous for Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked strongholds, and branded the most dangerous place in the world for Americans by US President Barack Obama.
(AFP PHOTO)

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Venezuela denies Chavez in critical condition

CARACAS, Venezuela (AFP) — The Venezuelan government rejected reports yesterday that President Hugo Chavez is in critical condition following emergency surgery in Cuba and insisted that the firebrand leader is "recovering well."

Chavez's government said he had an operation for a pelvic abscess on June 10 and continues to mend.

"He is recovering," Information Minister Andres Izarra told AFP in the wake of reports from Miami's El Nuevo Herald which cited unnamed US intelligence sources as saying Chavez, 56, "is in critical condition -- not on the brink of death, but critical indeed."

The newspaper also said the sources refused to comment on rumors in Venezuela that Chavez could be receiving treatment for prostate cancer.

Chavez's daughter, Rosines, and his mother, Marisabel Ro-

driguez, were recently whisked to Cuba in an air force plane, according to the newspaper.

The Venezuelan government has not addressed details of Chavez's condition, and angry opposition lawmakers in Caracas say it is unconstitutional for the president to be governing from abroad.

But several top Venezuelan figures have dismissed the reports.

"Chavez will be around for a long time," Vice President Elias Jaua told reporters.

The president's brother, meanwhile, has told Venezuelan state media that Chavez could return to Caracas in about two weeks.

And Izarra urged his Twitter followers to not repeat rumors, saying Chavez "is recovering well from his operation."

Chavez's enemies "should stop dreaming, and his friends should stop being nervous," added Temir Porras, a senior diplomat, in a Twitter message.

Doomsday believers: French mountain has aliens



Picture taken June 24, 2011, shows a woman examining an esoteric sign engraved on a rock near the summit of the Peak of Bugarach, the highest point of the Corbieres massif, in southwestern France.

Surrounded in legend for centuries, Bugarach has become a focal point for many Apocalypse believers as rumours have circulated that its mountain contains doors into

other worlds, or that extraterrestrials will return here on Judgment day to take refuge at their base.

Residents of the tiny southern French hamlet, population 194, are witness to a rising influx of Doomsday believers convinced it is the only place that will survive judgment day, December 21, 2012.

People in the town are mystified that some believe there's

an alien spaceship inside a rocky outcrop near the town. One paranormal expert says the belief is that aliens have been living in the mountain for years and will emerge and save everyone.

The town's mayor said if the world's going to end, as some believe based on an interpretation of an ancient Mayan calendar, he wouldn't want to survive anyway. Others find the whole thing ridiculous.

Bugarach has long been considered magical, partly due to what locals claim is an "upside-down mountain" where the top layers of rock are older than the lower ones.

Tropical wave to hit Mexico's Gulf today

MEXICO CITY, Mexico - A tropical wave moving over Central America is set to hit the Gulf of Mexico today, bringing high winds, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said, possibly affecting Mexico's oil ports.

The wave -- a large area of disorganized showers -- has a 20 percent chance of becoming a tropical cyclone over the next 48 hours and would be the first named storm of the Atlantic season.

"This system is forecast to emerge over the Bay of Campeche today where upper-level winds are expected to become somewhat conducive for development," the Miami-based center said in a statement yesterday.

Currently moving over Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, the wave is moving west-northwestward at 10 mph to 15 mph, the center added.

Dutch coral reef completely disappeared

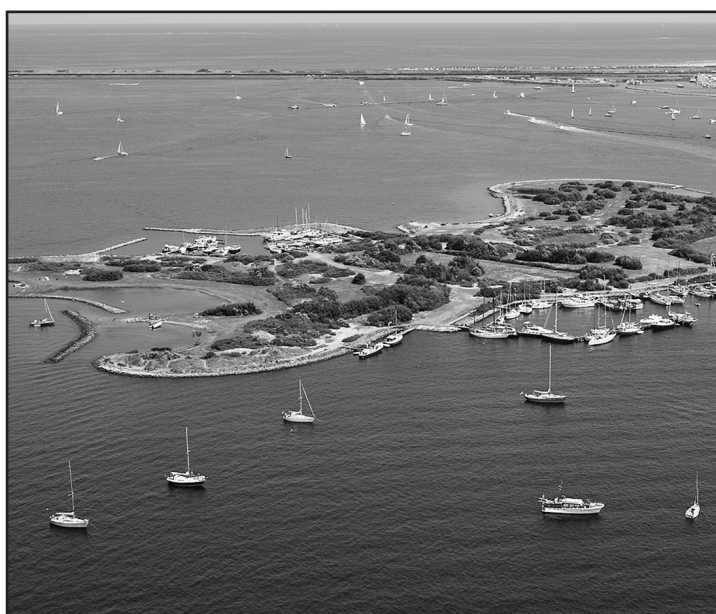
-- The only coral reef in the Dutch coastal waters is believed to have completely disappeared from the Dutch waters of Zeeland.

That reported the Foundation anemone, which deals with Dutch marine biology, on the website Natuurbericht.nl.

The presence of this so-called "Dead Mans Fingers Wall" had been worsened since the completion of the Delta Works.

But Anemone Foundation finds that the coral has now completely disappeared from the Dutch primary habitat in Zeeland.

However, the Dead Mans Fingers can still be found on ship wrecks in the North Sea. Coral reef fishes depend



on healthy corals to survive. With 25% of coral reefs already destroyed, some scien-

tists estimate that the remaining reefs may disappear completely by the year 2030.

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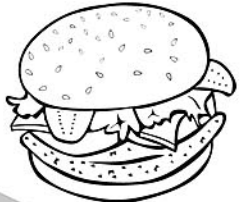
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Minister of Public Works responds to questions by Parliamentarians



Rendolf A. Lee

ORANJESTAD -- The Minister of the Environment, Integration and Public Works responded to nine questions raised by Parliamentarians Drs. Lee and Jaun David Yrausquin with reference to the plans of the proposed Linear Park Project.

The first question relates to the bid that was won by a Venezuelan concern. They question the extremely low figures presented for the execution of the project as these compare to figures from other sources and from the estimate made by the Public Works Department.

The questions were formulated in the following fashion:

1. Which minister is actually responsible for the project? Can the minister responsible for the project stand behind the project and can he guarantee that the project can be realized for the awarded sum, and that there will be no changes to the project plans?

Response: The Minister of Tourism is responsible for the budget. The Minister of Integration and Environment and Public Works is responsible for the implementation of the project. There are no changes made to the Project Plans.

2. Can the Minister indicate who will be responsible

for the supervision of the project? If in the event the Public Works Department (DOW) is not in charge of the supervision of the project, who is and why has the Minister taken the decision he has with respect to who supervises the project? They would also like to know if the DOW is a member of the coordination team of the project. If they are not, to please indicate who is and explain why the DOW has been left out?

Response: The DOW is fully responsible for the supervision of the project.

3. What is the Minister's stand point with respect to eventual additional work of this project? What is the exact amount of funds reserved for eventual unforeseen additional work for the project and what is the proportion of this amount with respect to the contracted amount? What will be the accepted procedure for approving prospective additional work and who will decide on whether to approve and/or disapprove additional work and the eventual execution of same?

Response: Every effort will be made to avoid any additional unplanned work. Additional work thus far has been limited to unforeseen matters with respect to the utility companies (ELMAR and WEB). The management of DOW will decide on any additional work if necessary.

4. On the basis of experience with similar types of projects in the past, can the Minister indicate what are the most important risks that the government may encounter in the execution of this Linear Park Project? How will the government handle said risks, if any?

Response: The risks involved in this project are minimal because the Contractor has a bank guarantee of 10% of the contractual sum.

5. The cost of the Linear Park estimated by DOW is about Afls. 9.6 million. Whereas the cost estimated by the Contractor is Afls. 4.8 million. Which amount will the contractor use for the execution of the project?

Response:
Afls. 4.800.000.00

6. Parliament is especially interested in a successful execution of this project within the context of the agreed contractual sum in conformity with the delineated confines of the project since this will indicate that it is possible for the government to take on projects that are very favorable. This will be extremely beneficial to Aruba. It will be very helpful if Parliament can have constant updates on this project. In this context we make an appeal to the Minister to keep Parliament regularly abreast of the developments of the project.

Response: There will be weekly meetings held, work discussions and construction meetings. If desired the minutes of these meetings can be disseminated to Parliament.

7. The big difference between the estimated cost of the Linear Park Project by DOW and the offer accepted by the government from the contractor raises doubts in the estimate presented by DOW. Can the government explain how DOW arrived at their estimated cost for the project? In view of the fact that the offer from the contractor will most likely be accepted by the government, can we conclude that the basis of the estimates of DOW must yet be actualized? If this is the case, when will this actualization take place?



Juan David Yrausquin

Response: The management budget has been designed based on standard norms and local prices. In the event there are new prices on the market DOW will make the necessary adjustments.

8. Before a public tender was held for the Linear Park Project an underhand tender took place. During the public hearing of the institution of the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund, the Minister of Tourism informed Parliament that the granting of the project in view of the underhand dealings did not take place because two of the three companies who were invited to participate were disqualified. Can you share with us why you chose to invite these three companies to participate in the underhand dealings?

Response: The decision to choose for an underhand tender was so that we could complete the project in the 'high season' period. An evaluation with the Infra Team was conducted to ascertain which small or medium size company at that moment did not have any work but was capable to satisfy the requirements for such an underhand tender. The invitation was without commitment. The invitation was extended to Bohama, Prosinca

and Sofonias.

Two of the three companies could not get a bank guarantee at that time. As a result DOW advised that because Bohama turned out to be the best choice, they should postpone the time schedule and proceed to a public tender.

9. In light of the current economic situation of Aruba and the resulting effect of this situation on the local labor market, it is essential that every local employment placement should be safeguarded for local labor personnel. For this reason it is important not to extend new work permits to contractors or subcontractors who either directly or indirectly will be participating in this project. Can the Minister guarantee Parliament that all created jobs having to do with the Linear Park Project will benefit local labor personnel and that there will be no work permits issued anyone in this project?

Response: All jobs in this project have been reserved for local personnel. There will be absolutely no new work permits issued for this project.



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Global Reach, Local Service

Reflections: Looking back at AIFF 2011: Worth the effort?

The second edition of the Aruba International Film Festival generated incredible excitement at the most unexpected moments; an awakening for many who think they may gauge public tastes by their own. Who would have thought that Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson would have created such a furor and attracted huge mobs of fans-equal to that of Richard Gere's red carpet walk in 2010?

Noel de Sousa, foreign correspondent on film for Times of India and based in L.A., remarked "Film festivals rely on local attendance for their success;" in his opinion, "vacationers are here to do their own thing on the sea and beaches, it is the support of the community that will fill the theaters."

I was very honored to be asked to be one of the jury of three of the Caribbean Spotlight Series, particularly upon meeting my illustrious co-judges, Noel, and Emmanuel Itier, film director, producer and distributor, originally from France, but now a long-time resident of L.A. Emmanuel screened his exploration of the spirit, "The Invocation," during the festival; though my work schedule did not allow me to screen the 5 nominated films and two shorts for the Aruba Flavor Contest in their company, we had many lively discussions upon meeting.

We also need to give credit to Aruban Aaron Hose, Producer/Director of the Caribbean Spotlight Series, who has lived in Florida since attending Florida Tech, and now produces and films documentaries for UCF. His own documentary, "Voices in

the Clouds," was very well received at the 2010 AIFF showcase of cinema by local filmmakers, which evolved into this year's competition.

When I asked the AIFF producers why they chose me to be a judge at this year's event, I was told my "international background" (born and raised in the U.S, attended summer school at University of Aberdeen, Scotland, and lived in a variety of locations before Aruba,) plus my roots in the local community, (31 years) qualified me as the jurist with some sophistication, but the regional viewpoint. This was without their knowledge of my career in the commercial film industry in New York for 8 years prior to living in Aruba, which accentuated my understanding of quality production values and editing.

Aside from this, our personalities made the jury a "good fit." Noel, who has been on more than one such body in his long career in film, remarked that we came to an agreement "very quickly,-I have participated in endless jury discussions until we finally compromised on a winner. This was a very enjoyable exchange."

Eventually, we did compromise to some degree. There were two winners of the Caribbean Spotlight Series- "Voices from Mariel" and "Children of God," which as The Bahamas entry from young filmmaker Kareem Mortimer, a narrative drama, created some challenges for us, as compared to



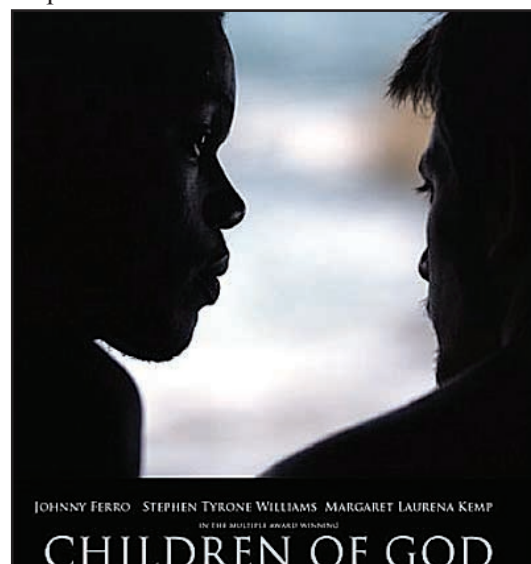
Caribbean Spotlight judges Noel de Sousa, Rosalie Klein and Emmanuel Itier

the 4 other final selections, all documentaries. This certainly made our task more difficult as judges, we felt that there should have been two different categories, Feature and Documentary, Aaron agrees he would like to see that for next year. Fortunately, "Children of God" won the audience vote; this allowed us to honor a second film. Noel finds it remarkable and very erudite of Aruban audiences to make such a choice. "You find that wherever you go to these festivals, the local audience tends to prefer films

about their locale; for the Arubans to have so overwhelmingly selected a film from The Bahamas, especially one on a rather delicate subject that makes so many in the region uncomfortable, is quite noteworthy."

Reflections will continue tomorrow with some telling observations about the AIFF from these film festival veterans, and their suggestions for its growth and future success. Tomorrow: Emmanuel Itier "I am a glutton for cinema!!"

by Rosalie Klein



One major example of the many surprises produced by this year's event, was the overwhelming positive reaction to the Caribbean Spotlight Series competition, which resulted in sold out theaters for films showcasing regional issues, most of them documentaries, which are rarely a big box office item. It was the extreme interest of local audiences and international media that filled the seats on a sunny Sunday and Monday afternoon, and as one of the jury members,

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Serenity Park getting beauty touch from Kiwanis International

SAVANETA -- Last Saturday members of Kiwanis Palm Beach Aruba together with Kiwanis Curacao, Kiwanis Suriname and the Governor of Kiwanis Caribe worked together towards the beautification of our Serenity Park at Rooi Koochi. Kiwanis Club is one of the stalwarts to support this beautiful project for several years now.

Every year they are among those who lend a helping hand to Foundation Serenity. The members of the civic Club came equipped with their sun spectacles, cap and 'chapi' and trimmers ready to work. They began the tedious job of pruning and trimming to make the park a beautiful place to behold.

While the Kiwanis team worked, members of the Serenity Foundation prepared lemon juice and natural fresh tamarind juice to refresh everyone.

The members of Kiwanis Palm Beach consider this project an important one, hence their reason for continuing to



support the foundation financially and in this practical way as well according to club member Jorgen Benshop.

The goal of the Serenity Park is to create a community based on educational programs related to our history, flora and fauna and social events. Another goal is to create healthy activities such as walking through the park and eating healthy foods. These goals are also reflected in the goals of

the Kiwanis Club.

The Serenity Foundation was established in 2004. The park has a circumference of 12.000 m2 situated near Rooi Koochi. This park cannot be compared to Parke Arikok, but is more of a botanical park comprised of different types of gardens with its local trees. There will be a walking area around the park where people can sit and enjoy the beauty of nature.

This lovely project will not only be for our local people to enjoy but also and especially for our tourist visitors. Our visitors would be able to enjoy our local food, salads and the Aruban 'batidos, (juice mixes) and herbal teas made with our own local herbs.

Serenity Foundation is especially grateful to the other foundations, government and non-governmental companies and to the government who support the project and are always ready to cooperate with them to help in achieving their goals.

Aruba Tourism Authority holds strategic meetings

ORANJESTAD -- In keeping with the new ATA, there are different objectives that they must achieve and certain adjustments that they must make. Among their goals is the attraction of a certain amount of tourists (3% for 2011), while also focusing on the amount that visitors spend on our island during their stay (5% for 2011). These goals are directly linked to the objective of improving the quality of the visitor Aruba wants, to ensure that we attract the markets and visitors that fit within the island's vision.

With concrete objectives in mind, ATA held strategic meetings under the guidance of Dr. Tico Croes of the University of Central Florida. The objectives of these meetings were to translate the objectives in a delineated marketing plan for 2012. Government legislation requires the new ATA to submit a marketing plan and budget for 2012 to the Minister of Tourism no later than by the first of September. These meetings were necessary in view of the necessary adjustments that must be made in the manner in which the ATA team

will be working from now on.

Directors of ATA Europe, North America and Latin America all travelled to Aruba in order to collectively with all ATA executives meet to define the direction for the promotion of Aruba in the different markets.

During the week of these internal meetings, they received different presentations by partners who are directly involved with Aruba's tourism. These partners are: Minister of Tourism, AAA, AHATA, and CBS. At the end of the week hotel members of AHATA were invited to discuss with them their different ideas.

Through various workshops the ATA team began delineating the plans for 2012 and the necessary changes to comply with the objectives that ATA must comply with.

In keeping with the agenda the objective was to finalize a marketing plan for 2012 as well as a budget for 2012. Several more meetings will be held before the process can be completed. Before submitting the final product to the Minister, the Board of directors must approve this.

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Sci-Tech

Social gaming a big winner in smartphone boom



SINGAPORE (AFP) – More virtual livestock looks set to be traded and petulant fowl hurled at targets as social gaming takes hold in the booming mobile phone market, industry experts say.

Social gaming, made popular by titles such as "Farmville" and "Angry Birds", was one of the closely followed topics at last week's CommunicAsia trade fair in Singapore, where telecom executives meet annually to check on new trends.

Internet-enabled smartphones as well as tablets are liberating social gamers from the physical confines of home and office, and more titles specifically designed for handheld devices are on their way.

Asia-Pacific smartphone sales are expected to reach 200 million a year by 2016, a third of all mobile phones sold in the region, according to telecom consultancy Ovum.

"At least 90 percent of gamers will be on mobile in the future," said Jeffrey Jiang, a director at Singapore-based Touch Dimensions, which develops games for various platforms.

He said his firm's clients now favour social games designed for mobile phones rather than personal comput-

ers or consoles such as the Xbox 360.

"When I started in the industry, all the projects are mostly PC, hardly any mobile. But now most of the projects that people ask from us is about mobile," he told AFP.

Jiang, whose firm creates games for mobile brands such as the iPhone, Android and Nokia, said light social gamers rather than hardcore videogame players would be the drivers of developer industry growth.

Thomas Crampton, a Hong Kong-based media consultant, said the rise of the smartphone made social gaming viable.

"The connectiveness to the Internet is important because it gives you that social link and the social aspect of gaming is really going to be a huge driving factor," said Crampton, Asia-Pacific director of Ogilvy Public Relations' global social media team.

Hackers school next generation at DEFCON Kids

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – DEFCON hackers will share their skills with the next generation at a first-ever children's version of the infamous gathering of software renegades, lock pickers and social engineers.

DEFCON Kids will take place in Las Vegas on August 6-7 during the 19th annual DEFCON started by hackers such as "Dark Tangent" when they were young computer coding or hardware cracking rebels.

"Hackers are getting older and having kids," said Joe Grand, a DEFCON veteran known as 'Kingpin' who has wowed attendees with event

badges made of circuit boards that could be hacked to serve as radios or other gadgets.

Grand, 35, recalling teen years in which his electronics skills got him benefits such as free telephone calls and trouble like an arrest for "computer-related stuff" he didn't detail.

"I was scared straight and there was nobody there to guide me straight," said Grand, who will teach hardware hacking at DEFCON Kids, which is open to children ages eight to 16.

"It feels nice to have an opportunity to be a mentor for kids who might be outcasts at school for having skills that aren't cool; that other kids don't understand."

Grand's two-and-a-half-year-old son has his own work space in dad's lab where he excitedly looks forward to being old enough to solder circuits.

A hacker conference for children is controversial even in the DEFCON community.

Prime targets for criticism include lock picking and social engineering, the art of manipulating people into revealing sensitive information.

"Everyone is up in arms that we are going to teach kids to be evil, but that is not the case," said Chris Hadnagy, who trains companies to guard against slick-talking hackers and runs the website social-engineer.org.

"Think critically, think objectively -- that is what this industry teaches people," continued Hadnagy, a DEFCON Kids mentor.

"The Internet is a breeding ground of predators, and not falling for those things is a skill I want my kids to have when someone is trying to manipulate them into something; whether it is peer pressure or a malicious adult."

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Health & Living

Adult diabetes rate doubles: study

LONDON (AFP) – The number of adults with diabetes worldwide has more than doubled since 1980, with almost 350 million now affected, according to a new study published in The Lancet medical journal.

Scientists from Imperial College London and Harvard University analysed blood sugar data of 2.7 million people aged 25 and over across the world and used the results to estimate diabetes prevalence.

The number of adults with diabetes more than doubled from 153 million in 1980 to 347 million in 2008, according to the research published Saturday.

Diabetes is caused by poor blood sugar control and can lead to heart disease and stroke and can damage the kidneys, nerves and eyes.

High blood sugar levels and diabetes kill three million people across the world each year.

The researchers said two of the strongest factors in the rising diabetes rate were increasing life span and body weight, especially among women.

"Our study has shown that diabetes is becoming more common almost everywhere in the world," said Majid Ezzati, from Imperial College London, who co-led the study.

Diabetes rates had risen most in Pacific island nations, where a greater proportion of people have the condition than anywhere else in the world, according to the study.

In the Marshall Islands, one in three women and one in four men have diabetes, it found.

Countries in western Europe had seen a relatively small increase in diabetes prevalence.

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Teens look to parents as role models

Who do teens look to as role models for healthy sexual behaviour?

According to a new Canadian study, they look first to the example set by their parents, not to friends or the media.

In their survey of more than 1,100 mothers of teenagers and almost 1,200 teens between the ages of 14 and 17, researchers found that when it

comes to sexuality, 45% of the teens considered their parents to be their role model, compared to just 32% who looked to their friends.

Only 15% of the teens said celebrities influenced them, the investigators found.

The researchers also pointed out that the teens who saw their parents as role models most often came from families

where talking about sexuality is encouraged. These teens, who were able to discuss sexuality openly at home, were also found to have a greater awareness of the risks and consequences of sexually transmitted diseases.

Parents underestimate their role

"Good communication within families and especially

around sexual health issues is associated with more responsible behaviours," study author Dr Jean-Yves Frappier said.

Despite this finding, the survey showed that 78% of the moms questioned believed their children looked to their friends when deciding about sexual behaviours. And the mothers often said that they felt a lack of involvement by

their child's father was particularly detrimental.

"Parents seem to underestimate their role and the impact that they have," noted Frappier. "Health professionals and the media have an important role to play in empowering parents and enabling them to increase their communications with their children with regards to sexual health issues."

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Asteroid to pass extremely close by Earth today

-- A small asteroid the size of a tour bus will make an extremely close pass by the Earth today, but it poses no threat to the planet

The asteroid will make its closest approach at 1:14 p.m. EDT (1714 GMT) today and will pass just over 7,500 miles (12,000 kilometers) above the Earth's surface, NASA officials say. At that particular moment, the asteroid — which scientists have named 2011 MD — will be sailing high off the coast of Antarctica, almost 2,000 miles (3,218 km) south-southwest of South Africa.

Asteroid 2011 MD was discovered Wednesday (June 22) by LINEAR, a pair of robotic telescopes in New Mexico that

scan the skies for near-Earth asteroids. The best estimates suggest that this asteroid is between 29 to 98 feet (9 to 30 meters) wide.

According to NASA's Near-Earth Object Office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif., an object of this size can be expected to come this close to Earth about every 6 years or so, on average.

The asteroid's upcoming Earth flyby will be a close shave, but not a record for nearby passing asteroids. The record is currently held by the asteroid 2011 CQ1, which came within 3,400 miles (5,471 kilometers) of Earth on Feb. 4 of this year.

15N15

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Dr. Edward Cheung reports everything is A-Ok and ready for launch for STS-135

Aruban born electrical engineer Dr. Edward Cheung, a specialist in robotics, has been with NASA for 20 years, a large portion of on the service team of the Hubble Space Telescope, and finally, as Principal Engineer. He has been sharing his insider's point of view with THE MORNING NEWS and islanders for a number of years, allowing his compatriots and island visitors to share the wonder and excitement, first-hand, of the final mission to the HST in 2009, which can still be read on Aruba's official website, www.aruba.com.

In two weeks, Dr. Cheung will again participate in the last manned U.S. mission to the International Space Station, (ISS,) after which the last of the three orbiters, Space Shuttle Atlantis, will be retired and take a place in the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida. THE MORNING NEWS will again be publishing his eyewitness, behind-the-scenes accounts of this historic event.

Dr. Cheung just spent 2 days at Kennedy seeing that new equipment from his department is safely installed on the shuttle and all systems are a go. Since there will be no more missions to the HST, Ed and his team have redirected their skills towards a new project, and he now holds the title of Robotic Refueling Mission Electrical Lead, Jackson & Tull/NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, which is in Maryland.

The team has devised robotics that will allow satellites to be refueled in space, thus extending their life and providing huge savings by no longer needing to replace weather and communication satellites in orbit every few years. "At present, there is at least one satellite launching a month in the U.S. alone; private or governmental. If the technology on a particular satellite doesn't need to be



With the Aruban flag

updated, this could be a viable alternative" he explains.

During preparations for the upcoming launch, Dr. Cheung had the opportunity to meet the astronauts of STS-135: Commander Chris Ferguson, Pilot Doug Hurley and Mission Specialists Rex Walheim and Sandy Magnus. This is the smallest crew a shuttle has carried since April 4, 1983 on the Challenger.

He reports "The crew feels a heavy responsibility. Not just for this mission, but all past ones," as surely, despite numerous missions of the 30 year program, it is the successful completion of this final and hopefully triumphant return, which will likely be most remembered. Endeavor, the newest of the 3 shuttles, returned on June 1 to be retired to the California Space Center. Discovery, which logged the most space miles, completed its last mission successfully on March 9, to finally take its place at National Air and Space Museum in The Smithsonian, Washington, D.C., and Enterprise, which was in storage, will go to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City. The STS-135 crew members were custom-fitted for a Russian Sokol space suit and molded Soyuz seat liner, should they be forced to return to Earth via a Soyuz

capsule, if it is decided the Atlantis is unable to make a safe re-entry, as there is no "back-up" shuttle at this point; if so, the crew members will reside in the ISS for up to a year as they are returned to earth one by one.

Thursday was a practice launch day for engineers and crew; Dr. Cheung managed to capture a moment while the shuttle waits on the launch pad to display the flag of his homeland next to the airlock that docks with the ISS. He reports a hydrogen fuel valve in one of the shuttle's three main engines appeared to leak during an external tank fueling test. However, it was replaced along with some parallel work to X-ray structural stiffeners in the tank's central compartment; this is not expected to impact the target launch date of July 8. Atlantis is packed with a year's worth of supplies for the ISS; all subsequent launches will be from other nations from now on. It is expected, in the near future, commercial flights will take over for the NASA program, this final STS-135 mission is partially due to the fact they are not yet up and running as soon as anticipated.

by Rosalie Klein

Breakfast
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

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*2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese
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Paseo Herencia was on fire for San Juan-Dera Gai



The symbolic rooster used today

The June 24 national holiday of San Juan-Dera Gai (Saint John-Bury the Rooster) allowed island visitors and residents to share a bit of regional culture with a distinctly Aruban twist, during an enter-

Herencia Shopping Center in Palm Beach.

Grupo Tipico Cadushi Largo provided the classic music as dancers adorned in the yellow and red unique to

the Aruban festival, performed the ritual Dera Gai dance harking back to pre-missionary times. Regional Amerindians celebrated the harvest and cleared the fields of chaff by setting bonfires around which they danced and jumped, while imbibing quite large amounts of home brew. In olden times, a rooster was buried to the neck and blindfolded farmers



symbolically beheading the rooster

taining demonstration of a traditional celebration at the Paseo Herencia Shopping Center in Palm Beach.

More humane times have prevailed, and a symbolic effigy is the center of the dance, which was performed with zest by Grupo di Baile Santa Cruz. It proved a fun and educational evening for all the audience, many of whom joined the dancers in the Paseo Herencia amphitheater to dance the evening away to the lively island music and celebrate this treasured island cultural holiday.

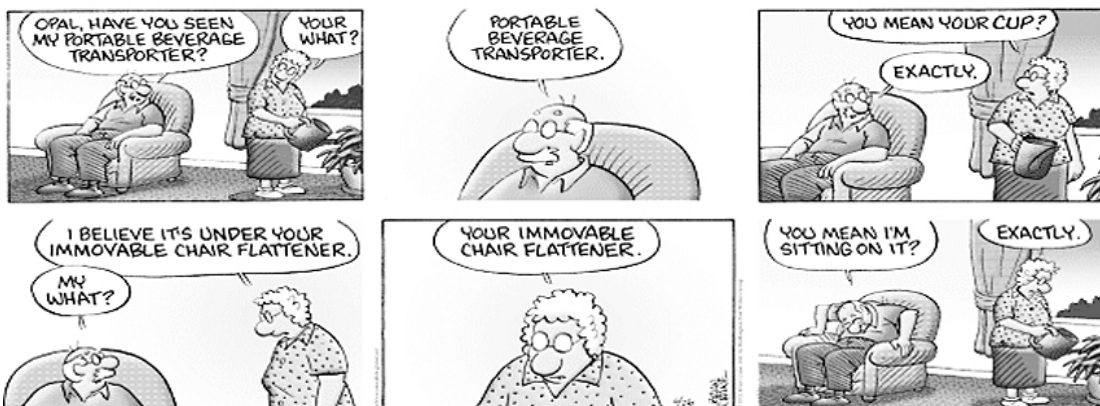


Putting on the blindfold



Grupo di Baile Santa Cruz

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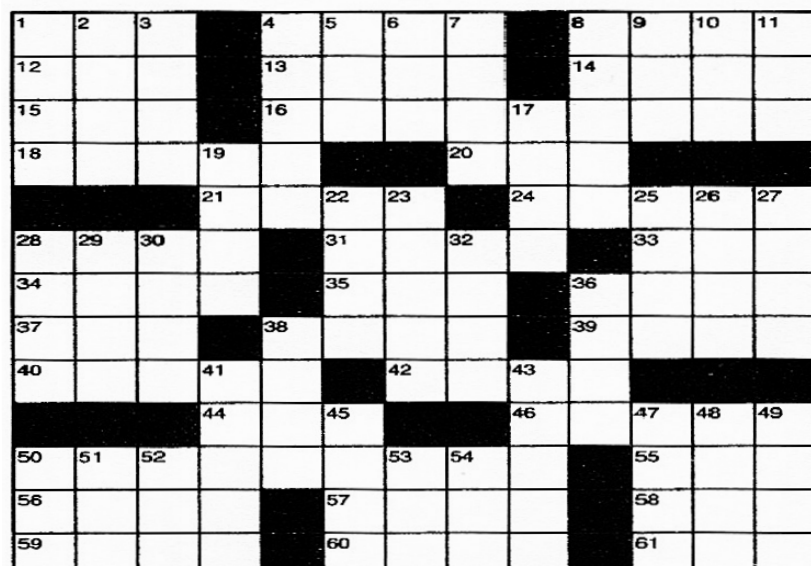
ACROSS

1. CBS rival
4. Be frugal
8. Attention-getting sound
12. Bill's partner
13. Owl's sound
14. Egyptian deity
15. Suffer poor health
16. Teenager's stipend
18. Adjust to fit
20. Diarist Anaïs
21. Actress Cameron
24. Teems
28. Musial of

- baseball
31. Bee's abode
 33. Call for help
 34. Video game heroine Croft
 35. "The Greatest"
 36. Dirt
 37. Hewing tool
 38. Rudiments
 39. House pets
 40. American buffalo
 42. Comedy club sounds (2 wds.)
 44. King, in Paris
 46. Provide entertainment
 50. Monetary
 55. "___ are you?"
 56. Revise proofs
 57. Norwegian

- city
58. Miner's find
 59. Big bundle
 60. Short sleeps
 61. Pronoun
- DOWN
1. College sports gp.
 2. Stew
 3. Sire's offspring
 4. Puppeteer Lewis
 5. IM provider
 6. Ency. unit
 7. Where the princes schooled
 8. Harpsichord's cousin
 9. Social Security no.
 10. "Get 'em, Fido!"

11. Mao ___-tung
17. Dry the dishes
19. ___ St. Vincent Millay
22. Melville captain
23. Zero, slangily
25. West Point (abbr.)
26. Decisive defeat
27. Speedy jets (abbr.)
28. Side of bacon
29. NYC vehicle
30. Son of Zeus
32. Passport endorsement
36. Con game
38. In due time
41. Speak from a soapbox
43. Circles of light
45. Sacred image
47. Foreboding utterance (hyph.)
48. Tender
49. Water pitcher
50. Black History mo.
51. Boise's state (abbr.)
52. None whatsoever
53. "The Lady ___ Tramp" (2 wds.)
54. High mountain



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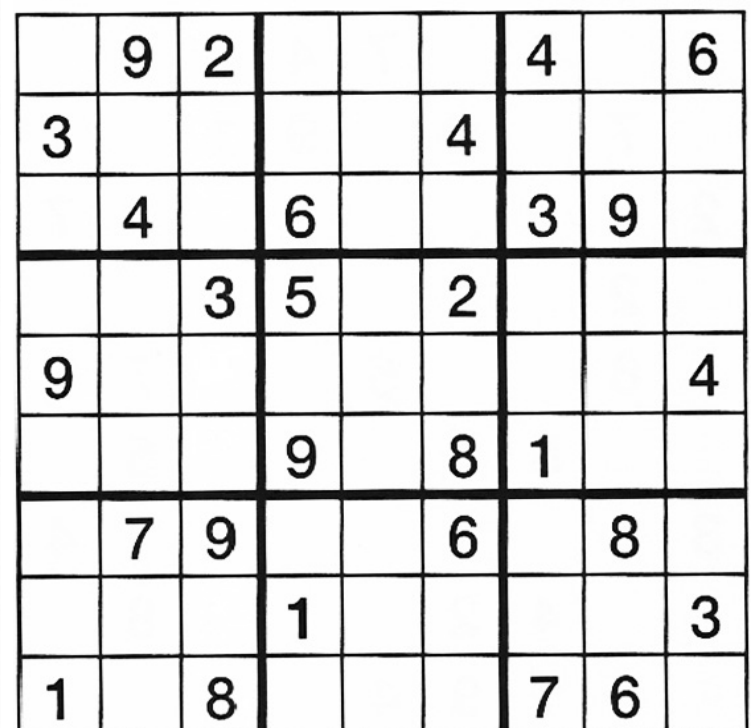
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1	8	5	9	3	2	6	4	7
5	3	1	8	9	6	7	2	4
7	2	9	3	1	4	5	8	6
6	4	8	7	5	9	3	1	2
8	6	3	1	2	9	4	7	5
4	5	2	7	6	8	1	9	3
9	1	7	5	4	3	2	6	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
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Finance

Advanced economies must 'cut debt' to prevent new crisis

GENEVA, Austria (AFP) — Heavily indebted industrialized nations must take swift action to cut debt in both the public and private sectors so as to prevent a new disaster, the Bank for International Settlements said yesterday.

And emerging markets should watch against falling into the same trap that triggered the recent financial turmoil, the bank for central banks warned, pointing out that property prices and private sector debt have been soaring in the red-hot economies of China, Brazil and India.

"Fiscal authorities need to act quickly and decisively before disaster strikes again," said the BIS in its annual report.

"In the countries that were at the center of the crisis, those imbalances include the lingering indebtedness in the private sector -- households as well as financial and non-financial firms -- which must be cut to levels well below those seen in the middle of the last decade," it noted.

In addition, countries that have been pursuing growth through leverage should ditch the strategy for a more conservative approach.

The BIS noted that a closer look into the debt situation in

countries such as Ireland and Spain indicates that the fiscal deficits are largely structural, and would therefore require greater effort from the governments to fix the problem.

In Ireland, for instance, the country's fiscal surplus before the crisis was "almost entirely due to the bloated construction sector." Without the effect of the construction boom, its fiscal position would be close to balance.

In Spain, about a third of the 2007 surplus came from construction.

Therefore with the collapse of the construction sector during the crisis, cutting public costs would be only part of the solution. Governments would have to examine ways to fill the lost revenue gap.

"Other sectors will have to take over from construction and financial intermediation as the engines of growth," it said.

The bank also suggested adjusting the tax system, such as giving less tax breaks for debt, in order to discourage debt accumulation.

Meanwhile, emerging economies must realise that they are not immune from the crisis even if they generally fared well during the recent financial turmoil, noted the BIS.

"Emerging market

economies managed to escape the worst of the crisis, but many now run the risk of building up imbalances very similar to those seen in advanced economies in the lead up to the crisis," it said.

Credit in Brazil, China and India had grown by over 20 percent annually between 2006 and 2010, said the report.

"Emerging market policymakers should recognise that the lessons from the financial crisis do not apply only to advanced economies," it added.

EU stands firm as polluting tax row threatens Airbus sales

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) — The EU refused Saturday to back down on a planned pollution tax on airline companies after reports China has put an Airbus order on ice and growing discontent in the United States.

Expectations that Hong Kong Airlines would announce a contract to buy billions of euros worth of Airbus aircraft failed to materialise last week at the Paris air show, prompting fears Beijing may have blocked the order.

A source close to the matter who asked not to be identified told AFP he was aware of "the possibility that China could put the deal on ice."

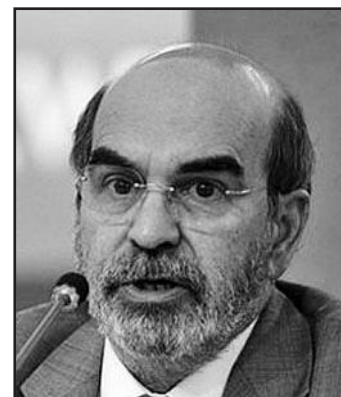
He said it is well known that "the Chinese government is very unhappy" about legislation bringing airlines operating in Europe into the EU's emis-

Brazil's Jose Graziano da Silva elected UN food agency head

ROME, Italy (AFP) — Brazil's former food security minister Jose Graziano da Silva yesterday became the first Latin American chosen to head the UN's food agency, a move aid groups hope will boost the fight against hunger.

Graziano was elected to lead the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation, beating off his main competitor, Spain's former foreign minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, by 92 votes to 88.

"I'm no longer just Brazil's candidate," a visibly emotional



Jose Graziano da Silva

Graziano said in Spanish to his celebrating supporters.

"Over the years I have learnt that we have to walk together to achieve consensus and obtain our objectives," he said.

The election of a new FAO director-general comes amid growing concerns over global hunger and spiralling food prices. Graziano's efforts to tackle hunger in his native Brazil has won him high acclaim worldwide.

"By supporting small farmers, Brazil is fighting successfully against hunger. This is the recipe for success that we hope Graziano brings to the FAO," said Marco De Ponte, director of ActionAid Italy.

"The FAO has to drop for good the purely technical role it has had until now and be able to show what its experience is worth... around the tables where economic, commercial and financial policies are discussed," he said.

Senegal's Jacques Diouf, who has held the top post at the FAO for 17 years, steps down at the end of the year, leaving an agency that critics consider to be too centralised and chronically inefficient.

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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Clubhouse - back

Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups

that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-

optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Community Pool

Spectacular Segafredo in South Beach Center-Much more than great coffee



Segafredo Terrace

South Beach Center in Palm Beach, across from the Radisson Resort, hosts a number of interesting shops and a wealth of restaurants; we just discovered what may be for lovers of Italian food one of the best and most surprising treasures in the area.

For those not familiar with Segafredo, it is an Italian franchise favored around the world for its great coffee. However, the Aruban outlet now offers so much more. Combined with its charming terrace and the open-air European ambiance, those seeking a delightful dining experience will be as pleasantly surprised as we were while testing out the offerings of their newly acquired award-winning chef.

The cozy eatery now boasts a diverse menu of Panini and Piadine, pastas and antipasti, salads and gourmet thin-crust pizza. We were a party of three and shared the Insalata di Mare, (Seafood Salad), Bruschetta al Pomodoro (there are 3 different kinds!), the Linguini Frutti di Mare and a Pizza Segafredo, topped with 2 kinds of cheese, ham, mushrooms, whole black olives, green pepper and roasted eggplant-absolutely delicious, as was every dish. The seafood salad is served with a fresh-baked piadina, a huge, crusty puff of bread that you break up and use to scoop up this delectable mix of shellfish, arugula and



Italian feast for two at a bargain price

other tasty items we failed to identify, but nonetheless enjoyed immensely, seasoned to perfection. One of our party claims to be "very, very, fussy about my seafood," and give this dish in particular their highest praise. The linguini was rich with whole shrimp, mussels, clams and calamari in a sauce that was simply exquisito!

More than ample portions allowed us to share everything and depart utterly stuffed. All of this for a final bill of just barely \$60 that left us well satisfied; our tummies were nicely filled and our wallets weren't empty, always a significant plus in enjoying one's meal. Segafredo offers some tempting desserts, a nice wine list and imported Italian beer, which perfectly complements their 13 varieties of pizza- or invent your own, and a nice selection of typical desserts, such as Tiramisu. They have a fine cabinet of after-dinner liqueurs and patrons are welcome to extend their evening at the South Beach Lounge. Dinner hours are from 6:00 PM to 1:00, so if you have a late-night urge for something special, this is definitely the place.



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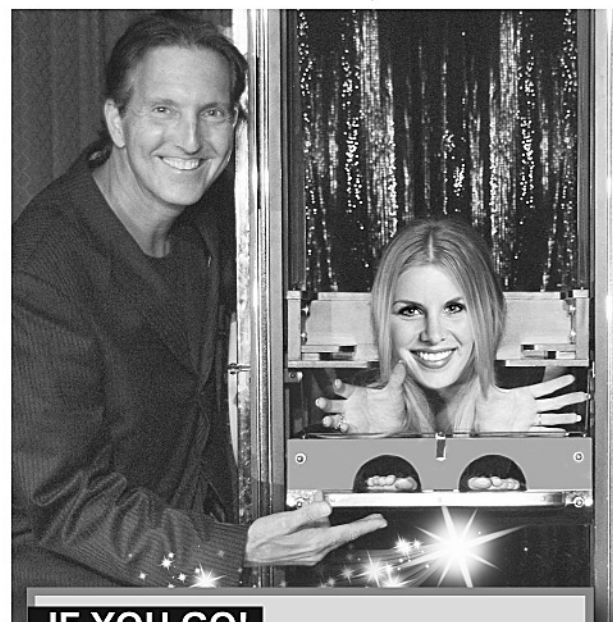
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GM marijuana problem growing in Colombia

CALI, Colombia (AFP) — Greenhouses lined with genetically modified marijuana sit on a mountainside just an hour ride from Cali, Colombia, where farmers say the enhanced plants are more powerful and profitable.

One greenhouse owner said she can sell the modified marijuana for 100,000 pesos (\$54) per kilo (2.2 pounds), which is nearly 10 times more than the price she can get for ordinary marijuana.

Local authorities said the arrival of genetically modified seeds, which are imported from Europe and the United States have allowed "a bigger production and better quality at the same time."

A police commander in the Cauca region where Cali is located, Carlos Rodriguez, said one of the modified varieties goes by the name, "Creepy."

Another seed modified in The Netherlands is fetching a good price in the area, said a foreign researcher, who asked to remain anonymous. That version, well-known in Europe as "La Cominera," is named for the Colombian vil-

lage where it grows.

"La Cominera's" higher value is due to its increased concentration of THC, the plant's principal active ingredient, and the modified plant verges on an 18 percent concentration level, compared to a normal marijuana plant's two to seven percent, said the researcher.

Despite the fact that marijuana production is illegal in Colombia, farmers say they continue to sell both traditional and modified marijuana because of economic advantages. One resident who spoke on the condition of anonymity said he can sell 11 kilograms of marijuana for 160,000 Colombian pesos (\$87).

In the greenhouses outside of Cali, in a secret location accessible only by foot, it is easy to recognize the famous plant with star-shaped leaves, where it grows amid other legal crops.

"I don't like growing marijuana, but it ended up that way," one farmer said. "I received a loan to grow coffee, but I was drowning and I had to sell my harvest very cheap. My sister told me it would be



Two men are seen smoking marijuana in Park Dakota, north of Cali, Colombia.

better to plant marijuana."

Marijuana was first introduced to the country in the 1930s and residents of Cali said that for economic reasons, they have never stopped cultivating the plant since.

They added they cannot sustain themselves on coffee and banana crops alone, because prices fluctuate widely and it is difficult to reach markets in time to sell the perishable items before they spoil, due to a poor road network.

The hemp plant was origi-

nally legally used in the production of textiles and soccer balls until 1962, when authorities banned the use of marijuana in those products in order to comply with international standards.

According to botanist Luis Miguel Alvarez, a teacher at the University of Caldas in Manizales and the author of several marijuana studies, after marijuana is grown and dried, it can endure long periods without spoiling, which is a strong economic advantage.

Police commander Rodriguez said the crop's growth poses a problem for local law enforcement, because profits are often used to finance other criminal activity.

"We believe that the sixth front of the FARC guerrilla forces are 90 percent financed by marijuana," he said. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia is Latin America's largest and longest-fighting insurgency with 47 years of armed struggle and 8,000 fighters.

Marijuana production and sales are growing in Colombia, which was also the world's biggest producer of cocaine in 2009, according to available statistics, he said.

"This year we have already seized 27 tons (of marijuana by June), compared to 23 tons last year. It is troubling that the resources of armed groups are growing and because of this they can acquire arms and explosives," Rodriguez said.

Nationwide, authorities say they have seized 41.8 tons of marijuana to date in 2011, compared to a total of 228 tons in 2010.

Nadal prefers playing against Federer



(FILES) Rafael Nadal of Spain consoles Roger Federer of Switzerland during the trophy presentation after his men's final match of the 2009 Australian Open

MADRID (AFP) - Spain's world number one Rafael Nadal says he prefers to play against his main rival Roger

Federer of Switzerland, who he defeated during the final of the French Open earlier this month.

"It is clear that the matches against Federer are always of great intensity. When I have a final against him, I feel something special and I imagine people feel the same," he said in an interview published Sunday in Spanish daily ABC.

"I have always liked Federer. I think the good thing about both of us is that we have always known how to lose as well as win. He is a gentleman."

Either Nadal, 25, or Federer, 29, has held the world's number one ranking since February 2, 2004, the longest two-man stranglehold since the rankings began in 1973.

The prospect of a fourth Wimbledon final between Nadal and Federer moved a step closer on Saturday as the two rivals cruised into the last 16.

The left-handed Spaniard won a record-equalling sixth French Open title with a dramatic 7-5, 7-6 (7/3), 5-7, 6-1 win over Federer on June 5 on the red clay in Paris.

The win tied Nadal with Sweden's Bjorn Borg and allowed him to retain his world number one ranking, fending off Serbian second-seed Novak Djokovic.

"I am conscious of having won something that days earlier did not seem possible. I am satisfied at having been able to overcome the initial disaster," said Nadal.

Asked if he would rather face Federer or Djokovic in a final, Nadal said: "You can't fool yourself, I would prefer to face Federer."

"My results against him this year are three wins and one defeat and against Djokovic it is four defeats. That is the way it is.

Men's / Women's last 16 line-up at Wimbledon

Men's

(x denotes seeding):

Rafael Nadal (ESP x1) v Juan Martin Del Potro (ARG x24)

Mardy Fish (USA x10) v Tomas Berdych (CZE x6)

Andy Murray (GBR x4) v Richard Gasquet (FRA x17)

Lukasz Kubot (POL) v Feliciano Lopez (ESP)

David Ferrer (ESP x7) v Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRA x12)

Mikhail Youzhny (RUS x18) v Roger Federer (SUI x3)

Bernard Tomic (AUS) v Xavier Malisse (BEL)

Michael Llodra (FRA x19) v Novak Djokovic (SRB x2)

Women's

(x denotes seeding):

Caroline Wozniacki (DEN x1) v Dominika Cibulkova (SVK x24)

Peng Shuai (CHN x20) v Maria Sharapova (RUS x5)

Sabine Lisicki (GER) v Petra Cetkovska (CZE)

Marion Bartoli (FRA x9) v Serena Williams (USA x7)

Tamira Paszek (AUT) v Ksenia Pervak (RUS)

Nadia Petrova (RUS) v Victoria Azarenka (BLR x4)

Petra Kvitova (CZE x8) v Yanina Wickmayer (BEL x19)

Venus Williams (USA x23) v Tsvetana Pironkova (BUL x32)



ITALY, Padova : New Zealand players perform the traditional Haka dance as they wear their gold medals, after they won the Under 20 IRB Junior World Championship final match between England and New Zealand on June 26, 2011 at the Stadio Plebiscito in Padova. New Zealand won the match 33-22 and the gold medal. (AFP PHOTO)



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Garcia beaten by Larrazabal at Munich play-off



MUNICH (AFP) - Sergio Garcia blew the chance of winning his first tournament in over two-and-a-half years when he was beaten by fellow Spaniard Pablo Larrazabal in a play-off at the BMW-International here on Sunday.

Both players carded final rounds of 68 to finish on 16 under par for the tournament, Garcia birdying the last to set up the play-off.

However, Larrazabal sealed victory - his second on the Tour with his maiden win in the 2008 French Open - on the fifth extra hole in the play-off.

Both players had the

chance of birdying the third and fourth sudden death holes, the par-3 12th and the 17th where Garcia's effort came to rest just two inches from the hole while Larrazabal, slightly closer but with a more awkward putt, lipped out.

That took them back to the par-5 568-yard 18th for the third time. Garcia missed an eight-foot birdie putt allowing the 28-year-old Larrazabal to tap in and claim his second tour victory.

"Last week we lost my grandad, the captain of the family, and this is for him," said Larrazabal.

"Beating one of my heroes when I was growing up is just a dream - very emotional."

Both men, however, secured a place at next month's British Open at Sandwich from the mini-money list compiled from results on the European Tour over the last month.

Garcia said: "Making The Open was definitely one of the goals. I wanted to win if I could, but unfortunately Pablo was just a little bit better today."

"I think the play-off was awesome - we hit good shot after good shot. I so wanted to make that putt and I don't know how it didn't go in."

"Overall I am pretty satisfied."

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Marco Andretti ends five-year Indy win drought



NEWTON, Iowa (AFP) — American racer Marco Andretti won his first IndyCar race since 2006, holding off Brazil's Tony Kanaan over the final 18 laps to capture the Iowa Corn Indy 250.

Andretti had not won in 79 races since 2006 at Sonoma and no member of the famed Andretti racing family had won on an oval course since his father Michael, now his team owner, won at Japan's Motegi in 2000 when Marco was 13.

Andretti on Saturday passed Kanaan on the inside with 18 laps remaining and twice fought off passing attempts by the Brazilian on his way to taking the checkered flag. Kanaan was second with

New Zealand's Scott Dixon third after starting 23rd.

"There was some good racing with TK," Marco Andretti said. "I made it difficult on him. No mercy at this point. I needed it."

After watching his son triumph over 250 laps around the .875-mile oval, the elder Andretti was overjoyed.

"I'm almost speechless. I'm so proud of him," Michael Andretti said. "He did a great job holding off Tony at the end."

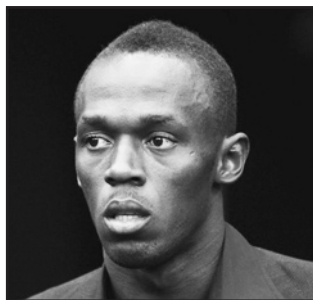
Scotsman Dario Franchitti, who finished fifth after leading 172 laps, seized the points lead 303-283 over Australian Will Power, who crashed out early. Dixon stands third, 73 points off his Ganassi Racing teammate's pace.

Argentine giants River Plate relegated

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Argentine football giants River Plate were relegated to the second division for the first time in their 110 year history on Sunday.

River Plate, based in the Belgrano district of Buenos Aires, are one of the most successful sides in Argentina, with a record 33 league titles.

Bolt's plans unchanged by Gay's injury



Double sprint world record-holder Usain Bolt: "My schedule and build up for the world championship will not change. I will not relax at all, as I know and expect strong challenges from even my own teammates in Jamaica and the Caribbean," said the reigning Olympic and world 100m and 200m champion.

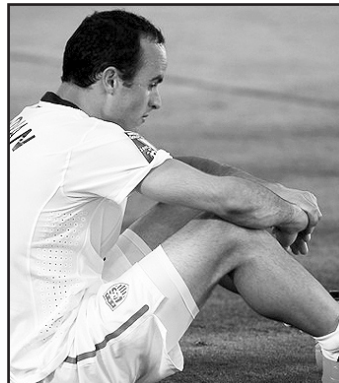
Tyson Gay of the US was the only man to beat Bolt last year, what Bolt dubbed his "off year" with no world or Olympic crowns on offer.

Gay was forced out of the US championship and world trials meet due to hip and abductor injuries.

Mexico rallies to beat USA in Gold Cup final



Mexico celebrates with the trophy after the game with the United States



Landon Donovan #10 of the United States waits for the award ceremony

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Mexico won a sixth CONCACAF Gold Cup title by rallying to score four unanswered goals and defeat the United States 4-2 in Saturday's championship game at

the Rose Bowl stadium.

Pablo Barrera scored his second goal of the game in the 50th minute to break a 2-2 deadlock and Giovani Dos Santos added an insurance goal in the 76th minute for the Mexicans, who trailed 2-0 after only 23 minutes.

USA's Michael Bradley scored in the eighth minute and Landon Donovan added another goal in the 23rd minute as the Americans jumped out to a 2-0 lead.

Mexico won their second title in a row in the biennial North American regional tournament, defeating the United States in the final as they did in 2009, and qualified for the 2013 FIFA Confederations Cup.

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FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011

Hosts Germany open campaign with win over Canada



Celia Okoyino Da Mbabi of Germany celebrates after scoring their second goal

BERLIN (AFP) - Hosts and defending champions Germany got their women's World Cup campaign off to a flying start on Sunday as they beat Group A rivals Canada 2-1 at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

Having won both the 2003 and 2007 editions, Germany are bidding to complete a hat-trick of titles on home soil and had few problems against the Canadians, who threatened the German goal on only rare occasions.

First-half goals by midfielders Kerstin Garefrekes and Celia Okoyino da Mbabi put the hosts in control before Canada captain Christine Sinclair slotted home a late free-kick for the guests.

The win puts the Germans top of Group A after France's earlier 1-0 win over Nigeria.

With Germany having gone through the entire 2007 campaign without conceding a goal, Sinclair became the first player to score against them at a World Cup since Sweden's Hanna Ljungberg in the Germans' 2-1 win in the 2003 final.

After a glitzy opening ceremony when a giant mirror ball released hundreds of football-shaped balloons into the Berlin sky, Germany got their campaign off to a good start with the first goal coming after just 10 minutes.

Two-time women's World Cup winners USA open their Group C campaign against North Korea in Dresden on Tuesday.

Delie goal gives France win over Nigeria



France's players celebrate with teammate Marie-Laure Delie (L) after she scored the winning goal past

SINSHEIM (AFP) - France opened their 2011 women's World Cup with a hard-earned 1-0 victory over Nigeria here Sunday thanks to Marie-Laure Delie's goal in a crucial Group A encounter.

A near sell-out crowd of 25,475 in Sinsheim saw a number of good chances but no goals until Delie's goal in the 56th minute gave France three points in the group with Nigeria remaining on zero.

"It is our first match and we have three points. They are in our pockets and nobody can take them away," said France coach Bruno Bini.

The game at Rhein Neckar Arena was considered a near

must-win for both sides with two-time reigning champions and hosts Germany must likely to advance as the other team from Group A to the quarter-finals.

The 23-year-old Montpellier forward Delie is in fantastic form, having now scored 22 goals in 21 caps and 12 goals in her last six matches.

"I give it my best each time the purpose of a striker is to score and voila!" said Delie.

"It just keeps going. She is really unbelievable," said Bini of Delie.

France next play Canada on Thursday while Nigeria face hosts Germany that same day.

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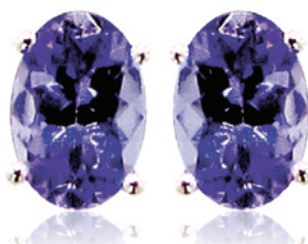


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